

Serial No. 10/084,381
Supplemental Amendment dated May 19, 2004
In Reply to Office Action dated January 15, 2004

Amendment to the Specification:

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 13, that starts with "The invention relates to a method..." and insert the following new paragraph:

The invention relates to a method for producing an embossing roller from silicone rubber for the continuous embossing of the surface of a thermoplastic film, with the embossing surface having a negative form of a surface structure to be embossed.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 4, which starts with "An object of the invention is to modify" and insert the following new paragraph:

An object of the invention is to modify a method for producing an embossing roller from silicone rubber for the continuous embossing of the surface of a thermoplastic film, with the embossing surface having a negative form of a surface structure to be embossed, and to simplify the production of a plurality of embossing rollers for exchange with used embossing rollers.

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Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 8, which starts with "That object of the invention is achieved" and insert the following new paragraph:

That object of the invention is achieved by the teaching of a method for producing an embossing roller in which:

a) an auxiliary roller is first produced which is made of plastic or a metallic material, at least in the region of its circumferential surface;

b) the circumferential surface is smooth;

c) a laser beam is directed onto the circumferential surface;

d) the laser beam moves relative to the circumferential surface and is controlled so as to be congruent with the particular site on the surface structure of a real pattern or of an imaginary pattern which is present in the form of data, in such a way that the surface structure of the pattern is created as a positive structure in the circumferential surface of the auxiliary roller;

e) a layer of silicone rubber of uniform thickness is poured or spread onto the positively structured circumferential surface of the auxiliary roller thus formed, and vulcanized to produce an embossing matrix, and

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f) the embossing matrix is pulled from the circumferential surface of the auxiliary roller, turned inside out, and adhered to a circumferential surface of an embossing roller, with the negatively structured embossing surface facing outward.